

Washington, DC - Today several San Antonio Congressmen announced that they have secured more than \$3 million for San Antonio projects.

These projects include: \$2 million for the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project, \$1.35 million for the Guadalupe and San Antonio River Basins Project and \$500 K for Nueces River and Tributaries Project.

Representatives **Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23)**, **Lamar Smith (TX-21)** and **Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20)** worked to have the funds included in the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.

The San Antonio Channel Improvement Project will restore natural riverbank to the southern San Antonio channel. It is administered by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) championed by San Antonio government and business community. The San Antonio Channel Improvement Project emphasizes the maintenance of current flood control protection, the improvement of recreational and cultural opportunities, and the restoration of a natural and sustainable ecosystem along the riverbank.

Tom Weaver, Director, San Antonio River Authority, District 4: "Thanks to the hard work of Congressmen Rodriguez, Smith and Gonzalez during this appropriations cycle the Corps of Engineers will have funding to begin construction on the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. Because our delegation made this project a top priority, a significant milestone for our community will be realized." Weaver added, "We will continue to support their efforts to secure the funding for this important project as the process moves through the conference committee this summer."

The Guadalupe and San Antonio River Basins Project will allow for studies to be preformed that will address flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply and water quality. The studies will help identify alternatives to reduce the threat of flooding to property by identifying flood risk factors and recognizing projects to lessen the loss of life and property.

The Nueces River and Tributaries Project will restore ecosystems of the Nueces River Delta. The funds will also reduce the damages associated with flooding events in the basin and increase the volume of stream flows for the benefit of endangered species in the area.

David E. Chardavoyne, SAWS President and CEO: "I thank Congressmen **Ciro Rodriguez**, **Lamar Smith**, and **Charlie Gonzalez** for their work to help provide the best science and methods for a long-term solution for the sustainability of the Nueces River Basin. This study will pave the way for new recharge structures over the Edwards Aquifer for additional water capacity and to protect flows at Comal and San Marcos Springs."

The Texas Representatives made the following statements after passage of the bill from the Committee on Appropriations:

Congressman **Ciro Rodriguez:** "As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to work with my fellow San Antonians to support these San Antonio River projects and the economic development that will result for the Alamo City. By working together and with our local leaders, we are paving the way for this river restoration and revitalization project."

Congressman **Lamar Smith:** "The valuable water projects will provide a tremendous investment to San Antonio by improving environmental and public safety. This is a good example of a bipartisan delegation working together to help our city."

Congressman **Charlie Gonzalez:** "These programs hold great economic and environmental significance in San Antonio and I'm proud that together, the San Antonio delegation was successful in their fight to include these funds in the Committee's appropriation bill. I applaud the efforts of my colleagues who have yet again displayed a strong commitment to these vital projects for the San Antonio community."

The FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill now moves to the full U.S. House of Representatives for consideration next week.

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